IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

22. (currently amended) An implantable medical device comprising:

a substrate;

a polymeric coating including a therapeutic agent supported by the substrate, wherein the polymeric coating includes a mixture of poly butyl methacrylate and ethylene co-vinyl acetate and the ~~a~~ therapeutic agent includes rapamycin; and

a barrier layer over at least a portion of the polymeric coating, wherein the barrier ~~is biodegradable~~reduces the rate of release of rapamycin.

23. (currently amended) The implantable medical device of claim 22, wherein the ~~polymeric coating~~barrier layer is biodegradable.

24. (currently amended) The implantable medical device of claim 22, wherein the therapeutic agent has a lower diffusivity in the barrier layer than in the polymeric coating.

25. (currently amended) The implantable medical device of claim 22, wherein the barrier layer is a homogeneous layer.

26. (cancel)

27. (cancel)

28. (currently amended) An implantable medical device, comprising:

a substrate adapted to be implanted at a site in need of therapy;

a polymeric layer including polymethylmethacrylate or polybutylmethacrylate supported by the substrate, the polymeric layer containing ~~one or more therapeutic agents~~, rapamycin for administering rapamaycin ~~wherein the therapeutic agents are delivered~~ to the site in need of therapy by diffusing through the polymeric layer to the site; and

a ~~biodegradable~~ barrier ~~contacting~~ over at least a portion of the polymeric layer to reduce the rate of release of rapamycin from the implantable medical device.

29. (currently amended) The implantable medical device of claim 28, wherein the ~~biodegradable~~ barrier degrades ~~at a rate slower than the diffusion rate of the therapeutic agents through the polymeric layer~~.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended) The implantable medical device of claim 28, wherein the polymeric layer ~~is biodegradable~~additionally includes ethylene co-vinyl acetate.

33. (canceled)

34. (currently amended) A method of making an implantable medical device, the method comprising:

forming a coating on the device, wherein the coating includes ~~a therapeutic agent and a polymer~~poly butyl methacrylate, rapamycin and optionally ethylene co-vinyl acetate; and

forming a ~~biodegradable barrier capable of~~barrier layer for reducing a rate of release of ~~the therapeutic agent~~rapamycin ~~from the coating~~ after implantation of the device into a body of a patient.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the coating is formed by applying a plurality of layers of ~~polymer and/or therapeutic agent~~poly butyl methacrylate, rapamycin and optionally ethylene co-vinyl acetate to the device.

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (new) The implantable medical device of claim 22, wherein the device is a stent.

39. (new) The implantable medical device of claim 28, wherein the device is a stent.

40. (new) The implantable medical device of claim 34, wherein the device is a stent.